In the Claims:

1-118. (Previously canceled).

119. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~

~~(f)~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~; or

~~(g)~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

120. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~

~~(f)~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~; or

~~(g)~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

121. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~

~~(f)~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~; or

~~(g)~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

122. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~

~~(f)~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~; or

~~(g)~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

123. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~;

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding~~ the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421);~~

~~(f)~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~; or

~~(g)~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160;

wherein the polypeptide encoded by said nucleic acid induces chondrocyte proliferation.

124. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~;

(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide;

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~(c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~;

~~(f)~~(d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~; or

~~(g)~~(e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160.

125. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~.

126. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 422 ~~shown in Figure 304 (SEQ ID NO: 422)~~, lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. Canceled.

129. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~.

130. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 421 ~~shown in Figure 303 (SEQ ID NO: 421)~~.

131. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203160.

132-134. (Canceled)

135. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 119.

136. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 135, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

137. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 135.

138. (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim 137, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.